



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2003

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
610 N.W. Loop 410
San Antonio, Texas 78216
(210) 384-7452

AUSTIN MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL GUN CHARGES

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that **Kevin Howard** was sentenced to 110 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a gun. On November 20, 2002, an officer with the Austin Police Department responded to a 911 hang-up call. When the officer arrived at the residence from which the 911 call was made, the defendant had already left. The officer located the defendant and learned that he had been in possession of a rifle although as a convicted felon he was prohibited from possessing a gun.

This case was investigated by the Austin Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Doug Gardner is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government. The prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is implementing the Department of Justice's new gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN).

Modeled after the success of Project Exile, Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to target violent criminals who use guns and insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences. This commitment to reduce gun crime includes nationwide federal funding this year of more than \$200 million, which is used to hire new federal and state prosecutors, support investigators, provide training, and develop and promote community outreach efforts.

#####